

To: Governor
From: Buddy B.
Re: Fair speech notes
Date: July 25, 2008

Marsha

This is the fifth time Marsha and I have joined you here during our service as First Lady and Governor, and like the fair itself, each year gets better and better.

The beacon in my life remains as strong and constant as she was the first day we met. Over 36 years of marriage; two sons and two wonderful daughters-in-law who have given us three grandchildren, she makes every day special. It's my honor to present my bride and partner ... Marsha ... Mississippi's First Lady.

Recap 2007 reelection

Many of you helped us in last year's reelection campaign. It was another strong team effort – an inclusive, grassroots, people-to-people campaign that resulted in more than 58 percent of the vote. Nobody has ever been elected to office by himself – and I'm no exception. Marsha and I thank you from the bottoms of our hearts.

We are humbled by your hospitality, energized by your enthusiasm, and committed to continue our work, together, to move Mississippi forward.

Humor

I've been around for a long time and have learned to never underestimate the value of humor in politics:

Like Ronnie Musgrove saying there were no tax increases in his administration. Yeah, right.

Like Ronnie Musgrove saying he didn't leave office with a \$700-million-plus budget shortfall, based on revenue that was spent but not booked. Uh, huh.

Like Ronnie Musgrove pretending to be the conservative candidate in the Senate race. Oh, please.

Ronnie Musgrove's bookkeeping would make even the Beef Plant's accountant cringe.

There's said to be only 12 basic jokes in the English language. Listening to Ronnie Musgrove these days makes me wonder what happened to the other 11.

One thing you don't have to worry about is whether Ronnie Musgrove has taken any performance-enhancing drugs.

Medicaid

Senate passed a fair, permanent, sustainable solution on an overwhelming, bipartisan vote of 41-to-7, on May 28.

It's a \$6 to \$1 return for hospitals.

It's six-tenths-of-one-percent increase in provider fees hospitals have historically paid, at their own request because of the high rate of return.

The House has voted to (1) delay the cuts that the law requires the Governor to make when there's a Medicaid funding shortfall, and (2) to cover the shortfall by dipping into the state's savings account.

That kind of math may be good for confusing the issue, but it just won't wash here in Neshoba County, Mississippi.

It's the same sort of misguided approach that seems to threaten Medicaid every year.

While Mississippi Medicaid needs a permanent solution, the House Democrat leadership simply fans the partisan flames. They're taking their lead from the national Democrats.

Obama and the Democrat Congress

Twenty-five days from now the national Democrats gathered in Denver will anoint one of this country's most liberal U.S. senators – maybe the most liberal, even counting Hillary Clinton and Teddy Kennedy – as their nominee for President.

He is charismatic, a so-called agent of change. He may look good on TV, but he is untested at the things Americans care about most.

He is untested at managing through a downturn in the economy.

Already, many in his party are proposing higher taxes or cranking up the presses and printing more money, which just further erodes the value of the dollar.

He is untested at international affairs.

A few days in the Middle East dutifully recorded by journalists whose national networks and newspapers have already shown their bias for him is hardly inspiring.

He is untested at the war on terrorism.

He seems oblivious to the dire threat that extremists still present to the America we know and cherish.

He espouses very liberal social and environmental policies under which American taxpayers without a doubt would pay higher taxes ... more money out of your pockets to support a federal bureaucracy that grows ever larger, ever more intrusive.

His domestic energy policy talks the same old liberal line against more domestic oil and gas production, even as gas goes over \$4 dollar a gallon and the foreign governments that own 94 percent of the world's oil supply get richer and richer.

His energy policy is a policy of NO – NO new exploration, NO new production. NO way to even find out whether vast new resources of oil and gas exist under American soil or coastal waters. NO new nuclear power plants.

The economy is the great national issue in this presidential and congressional election cycle, and energy is a huge component of it.

Our national government would do well to adopt the same energy policy I've had since I've been Governor: The policy is "more energy."

It's about every family in Mississippi, including the many, many, many who can't pay \$4 dollars for a gallon of gas; who can't pay their electric bills or natural gas bills, and the buy food and the other necessities of life.

These things make a big difference in people's lives, so energy is something we need to seriously address.

Today we are concerned about price of energy and the harm it does to our families and to our economy. But we also have to think ten or fifteen years from now, when industry, as it decides where to site new facilities, will not ask about energy, "How much does it cost?" They'll ask, "Can we get it?"

But strength and freedom face many challenges, and one of them is unknown change.

The question is, what will America become.

The future is at stake.

My friends, to Barack Obama's version of change, I only have only three words ... NO THANK YOU.

NO THANK YOU to the left wing snake-oil peddlers.

NO THANK YOU to more liberals on the Supreme Court who might take away your right to own a gun.

NO THANK YOU to higher taxes.

NO THANK YOU to bigger government.

NO THANK YOU to short-sighted, misguided energy policies that prohibit domestic production and punish American consumers while foreign, some hostile governments grow fat from our dollars.

NO THANK YOU to homosexual marriage.

NO THANK YOU to a political party whose platform embraces the killing of babies in the mother's womb.

NO THANK YOU, Barack Obama!

Senator John McCain
Senator Thad Cochran
Senator Roger Wicker
Gregg Harper, 3rd Congressional District GOP nominee
Greg Davis, 1st Congressional District GOP nominee

Closing

Time to renew conservative values just as we continue working together to renew our Gulf Coast from the devastation of the worst natural disaster in American history, Hurricane Katrina, which hit on August 29, 2005.

Three years is a long time, and yet three years is not long enough to rebuild the Coast bigger and better. Through the superb leadership and commitment of our United States Senators, great progress has been made. And, our commitment will continue until the job is done.

Believe in ourselves.

Build a future for our children that is brighter than our own

Win the war on terrorism.

Solve problems in the economy.

Reaffirm our faith in God and look to Him for guidance.